

Message Text

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ACTION OES-09

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01
CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-01 TRSE-00
H-01 INR-10 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 NSF-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 /148 W

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R 130447Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5882
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC HONOLULU
HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 WELLINGTON 03614

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD; TOKYO FOR RFO; SAIPAN FOR STATUS
LNO

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIS, PLOS, PP, NZ
SUBJECT: VAN CAMP SEAFOODS' INTEREST IN TUNA FISHING IN
- PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND NEW ZEALAND

REF: (A) STATE 175327 AND PREVIOUS

SUMMARY: DURING RECENT VISIT TO WELLINGTON BY VAN CAMP
SEAFOOD COMPANY, DIRECTOR FOR RESOURCES AND PLANNING,
RICHARD CHERRY, EMBOFF HAD OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS VAN
CAMP'S INTEREST IN EXPLOITATION OF SOUTH PACIFIC TUNA
FISHERIES. VAN CAMP'S PROPOSALS AND THEIR RECEPTION
BY PAPUA NEW GUINEA (PNG) AND NEW ZEALAND OFFICIALS
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ARE HERewith REPORTED. ADDRESSEES ARE REQUESTED TO
PROTECT PROPRIETARY INFORMATION. END SUMMARY.

1. AT REQUEST OF VAN CAMP SEAFOODS, SAN DIEGO, EMBASSY
ARRANGED NUMBER OF APPOINTMENTS JULY 5 - 7 FOR RICHARD
CHERRY, DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES, VAN CAMP, TO MEET WITH
GNZ FISHERIES AUTHORITIES. CHERRY'S PURPOSE IN VISIT-

ING WELLINGTON WAS TO SEEK INDIVIDUAL LICENSES FOR VAN CAMP'S VESSELS TO FISH FOR TUNA DURING THE 1978-79 SEASON. BECAUSE VAN CAMP'S APPROACH WAS FIRST EFFORT BY U.S. INTERESTS TO OBTAIN GNZ FISHING LICENSES OF ANY TYPE, MUCH LESS INDIVIDUAL LICENSES, AND BECAUSE REQUEST INCLUDED THE ADDITIONAL ELEMENT OF HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES (HMS), EMBASSY ASKED CHERRY TO KEEP IT INFORMED. (FYI: REFTEL INDICATES THAT SOME ELEMENTS OF VAN CAMP APPROACH IN PNG HAVE BEEN REPORTED BY PORT MORESBY. SINCE WELLINGTON WAS NOT ADDRESSEE ON PREVIOUS, WE HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING WHAT PORTIONS MAY ALREADY BE KNOWN TO THE DEPARTMENT. END FYI.)

2. CHERRY OUTLINED GENERAL PROPOSAL FOR VAN CAMP TO SEND SIX SUPER SEINERS TO SOUTH PACIFIC IN 1978-79. SCHEME WOULD INCLUDE OPERATION OF SEINERS IN PNG WATERS DURING SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER PERIOD, LAY-UP IN NZ BOATYARDS FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE MONTH IN NOVEMBER FOR OVERHAUL AND REPAIRS, AND FISHING OF FOUR SEINERS IN NEW ZEALAND EEZ DURING DECEMBER-JANUARY SKIPJACK SEASON. OTHER TWO VESSELS WOULD DO EXPLORATORY WORK IN SOUTH PACIFIC DURING NZ SEASON.

3. CHERRY REVEALED THAT DURING PREVIOUS WEEK IN PORT MORESBY HE HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN REACHING TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WITH PETER WILSON, DIRECTOR OF FISHERIES, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND JULIUS CHAN, DEPUTY PRIMIN AND MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRY, FOR OPERATION OF THE SIX SUPER SEINERS IN PNG WATERS DURING COMING TUNA SEASON. WRITTEN DRAFT AGREEMENT WHICH CHERRY IS TAKING BACK TO VAN CAMP AND WHICH HE SAYS HAS THE WRITTEN ENDORSEMENT OF WILSON, CALLS FOR:

- (A) PNG LICENSING OF SIX PURSE SEINERS TO OPERATE IN PNG FISHING ZONE THROUGH END OF 1979;
 - (B) FEES PAYABLE AND LICENSES RENEWABLE EVERY NINETY DAYS DURING WHICH VESSELS ARE IN PNG WATERS;
 - (C) VESSELS FREE TO TRANSIT IN AND OUT OF PNG ZONE AT WILL;
 - (D) FEES FORMULA OF:
 - US 10.35 DOLS PER METER OF VESSEL LENGTH, PLUS
 - US 1.38 DOLS PER CREWMAN, PLUS
 - US 20.00 DOLS PER NET REGISTERED TON
4. CHERRY SAID WILSON WAS INITIALLY COOL TO THE IDEA OF

PERMITTING VAN CAMP TUNA VESSELS INTO PNG FISHING ZONE. WILSON WAS PERSUADED, HOWEVER, BY ARGUMENT THAT PNG WOULD BENEFIT FROM VAN CAMP VS. STAR-KIST COMPETITION RATHER THAN ONE-SIDED ARRANGEMENT WHICH CURRENTLY FAVORS STAR-KIST. (COMMENT: REFTEL INDICATES THAT GPNG APPROVAL MAY NOT BE AS FIRM AS CHERRY INDICATED. END COMMENT.) CHERRY SAID HE ALSO TOLD WILSON THAT MERE FACT HE WAS IN PORT MORESBY TO NEGOTIATE LICENSING ARRANGEMENT INDICATED VAN CAMP IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT GPNG JURISDICTION OVER HMS IN 200-MILE ZONE. THIS SEEMED TO IMPRESS WILSON, HE SAID.

5. IN NEW ZEALAND CHERRY'S PROPOSALS AND REQUEST FOR

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FOUR INDIVIDUAL LICENSES FOR PURSE SEINERS WERE TEPIDLY RECEIVED. DIRECTOR OF FISHERIES MANAGEMENT DIVISION WAS THOROUGHLY NEGATIVE TO SUGGESTION THAT NZ TUNA FISHERY COULD SUSTAIN AN ADDITIONAL FOUR SUPER SEINERS. (FYI: FIVE SUPER SEINERS WORKED NZ TUNA FISHERY LAST SEASON; ONE OWNED BY NZ INTERESTS AND FOUR OPERATED BY NZ PALEGIC FISHERIES COMPANY IN JOINT VENTURE ARRANGEMENT WITH STAR-KIST. END FYI.) DIRECTOR OF FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ADDITIONALLY TOLD CHERRY THAT

UNDER NZ LAW, NO APPLICATIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL LICENSES
COULD BE ENTERTAINED IN ABSENCE OF GOVERNMENT-TO-
GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT. DIRECTOR OF FISHERIES RESEARCH,
ON THE OTHER HAND, ADVISED CHERRY THAT NZ MANAGEMENT
DIVISION WAS GROSSLY UNDER-ESTIMATING NZ'S SKIPJACK
POTENTIAL, AND AN ADDITIONAL FOUR SUPER SEINERS WOULD
HAVE VIRTUALLY NO IMPACT ON THE SKIPJACK RESOURCE.
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IN A DISCUSSION AT MFA, CHERRY WAS TOLD THAT NO PRO-
HIBITION EXISTS IN NZ LAW FOR NEGOTIATION OF INDI-
VIDUAL LICENSES. MINISTER OF FISHERIES BOLGER, IN
SEPARATE MEETING, TOLD CHERRY THAT VAN CAMP'S WAS
FIRST APPROACH FOR INDIVIDUAL LICENSES AND THAT GNZ
WILL ERR ON THE SIDE OF BEING OVERLY CONSERVATIVE IN
THE EARLY STAGES OF APPLYING ITS FISHERY ZONE REGU-
LATIONS AND QUOTAS. HE NOTED THAT LICENSE FEES
ALONE WOULD LIKELY BE INSUFFICIENT INCENTIVE FOR GNZ
TO GIVE VAN CAMP INDIVIDUAL LICENSES AND ASKED WHAT
OTHER INDUCEMENTS, E.G., PROCESSING PLANTS, BOAT REPAIRS
OR BUILDING, ETC., VAN CAMP MIGHT INCLUDE WITH ITS
PROPOSAL. BOLGER SUGGESTED THAT VAN CAMP RETURN IN A
FEW WEEKS WITH A WRITTEN PROPOSAL FROM WHICH THE GNZ
COULD OPERATE. HE INDICATED THE QUESTION OF JOINT
VENTURE ALSO MIGHT STILL BE OPEN, ALTHOUGH THE JUNE 1
CUT-OFF DATE FOR THIS YEAR'S JOINT VENTURE SUB-
MISSIONS HAD PASSED.

6. CHERRY INDICATED TO EMBOFF THAT VAN CAMP WOULD
COME BACK TO THE GNZ WITH A "SWEETENED" PROPOSAL IN
SEVERAL WEEKS. HE ALSO COMMENTED CONFIDENTIALLY THAT
FOR STAR-KIST TO HAVE A PERMANENT ADVANTAGE IN WHAT
APPEARS TO BE A VERY LUCRATIVE SKIPJACK FISHERY OFF
NZ'S COASTS IS "UNACCEPTABLE." HE SUGGESTED THAT VAN
CAMP MIGHT WANT TO EMPHASIZE THIS POINT, SHOULD ITS
REQUEST FOR LICENSES BE REJECTED, BY BRINGING IN AN
UNLICENSED VESSEL ("JEANNETTE C") TO BRING THE MATTER
TO A HEAD. CHERRY UNDERLINED THAT SUCH ACTION WOULD
BE A LAST RESORT BUT WANTED THE GNZ TO UNDERSTAND HOW
VAN CAMP MIGHT REACT TO A POLICY WHICH IT FOUND DIS-
CRIMINATORY. (FYI: FACT IS THAT STAR-KIST IS ALREADY
INTO ITS THIRD YEAR OF A FIVE-YEAR JOINT VENTURE
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AGREEMENT IN NZ. VAN CAMP IS THUS LATE TO THE GAME
IN THIS AREA. END FYI.)

7. COMMENT: BY COMING TO THE GPNG AND GNZ REQUESTING LICENSES FOR U.S. TUNA VESSELS, CHERRY, AS HE APPARENTLY INDICATED TO BOTH GOVERNMENTS, IS IN EFFECT SAYING THAT VAN CAMP, AT LEAST, IS PREPARED TO RECOGNIZE THE RESPECTIVE NATIONAL CLAIMS OF SOVEREIGNTY OVER HMS WITHIN THE RESPECTIVE 200-MILE EEZ. AT THE SAME TIME, CHERRY'S FREQUENT REFERENCE TO FISHERMEN'S PROTECTIVE ACT MADE IT CLEAR THAT VAN CAMP'S RESPECT FOR NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY OVER HMS HAS ITS LIMITS, I.E., LICENSING SOLUTIONS MUST BE "ECONOMICALLY VIABLE." EMBASSY WOULD WELCOME PORT MORESBY'S COMMENTS ON THE IMPLICATIONS FOR GPNG POLICIES OF ASSERTED GPNG-VAN CAMP LICENSING AGREEMENT.

8. ADDRESSEES ARE REQUESTED TO PROTECT PROPRIETARY INFORMATION IN PARAGRAPHS 2 - 4.
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